

My Dear Church Family,

I have been told by a person this week, that there is talk, that basically accuses me of getting rid of James so that I can take over this church. This is categorically and unequivocally false. What was done was a culmination of events that started with James refusing to meet with a group of church members who had requested a meeting. I became involved when this issue became divisive which eventually led to James' resignation. Taking over this church was never in my heart or mind. I had never considered being James' replacement.

Subsequently, I had considered to become your senior pastor if offered. However, that being said, upon prayerful consideration by Connie and myself, I am NOT seeking the position of senior pastor nor will I accept the position should you offer it to me.

Nevertheless, I have been one of your pastors for nearly 35 years, having served with 5 senior pastors and various other staff members. I have seen this church through many stages of development. I know this church perhaps better than anyone else possibly could, physically, spiritually, ministerially, and operationally. I have seen what works and what doesn't.

I have also grown theologically and Biblically. I'm not where I was 35 years ago theologically. I look back to that time of my relative ignorance, and marvel that you called me anyway.

I have now lived long enough to see the current trends in churches across this nation in light of Biblical principles and I am alarmed by the worldliness, the emotional manipulation, the rise of eastern mysticism, and the acquiescence to post-modern existentialism whereby one's personal experience is more important and has more validity of truth than the plain truth of the Word of God in our churches, and, yes, even in this church.

If you will allow me, during this period of time, to do some preaching and teaching, I think I have something of value to offer that will be of benefit to you individually and corporately. I am not even seeking to be your interim pastor. I do want to have the opportunity to present a series of teachings that are fundamental to our understanding of true Biblical theology, that has been lacking, in my opinion, for recent decades from the larger Christian community.

Next week we are going to introduce and present to you our pastor search committee, which you have elected, so that you can see them face to face. I am asking you to commit to praying for this group of people who have taken on a daunting task to find a senior pastor for this church.

Let us from this point on open a new chapter for First Baptist Church.

Roger W. Bayes
Worship Pastor